Exploitation of casual workers in Oil Sector

529. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about exploitation of casual workers, contractual workers etc. in the Oil Sector in General and by ONGC in particulars;

(b) how much time Government will take to issue Notification protecting minimum wages in oil sector; and

(c) which are the other sectors where minimum wages are yet to be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The issues relating to contractual workers in ONGC have been coming up before the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board (CACLB) from time to time. The Central Government, on the recommendation of Central Advisory Contract Labour Board had prohibited employment of contract labour in some jobs in ONGC *vide* its notifications dated 8-9-1994 and 26-2-2001. A few cases for prohibiting employment of contract labour relating to oil sector, including ONGC, are pending before the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board.

(b) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to notify any employment in the schedule where the number of employees is 1000 or more and fix the rates of minimum wages in respect of the employees employed therein under their respective jurisdictions. Sector-wise minimum wages are not fixed.

(c) The minimum rates of wages notified by the appropriate Governments are also applicable for all the workers including the Casual/Contractual workers engaged in scheduled employments in the Central and State sphere across all the sectors including oil sector.

Salary cut of employees *vis-a-vis* increase in salary of the management

†530.SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to global economic recession, there had been retrenchment and salary cut of employees at lower level in Indian corporate world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that salaries and allowances of employees at top management level in corporate world had doubled in comparison to previous year;

(c) if so, whether Government will look into the reasons behind this; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment has conducted two quick quarterly surveys to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in India. The first

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

survey was conducted in the month of January, 2009 to assess the impact during the quarter October-December, 2008. The second survey was conducted in the month of April, 2009 to assess the impact during January-March 2009. The employment in sectors *viz.*, mining, textiles, metals, gems & jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 as compared to October-December, 2008 wherein about half a million workers lost their jobs. Regarding protection against reduction of salary and wages, workmen can raise industrial dispute under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Data on levels of salary cut of employees in the Indian Corporate World and details of salaries and allowances of employees at top management level during the period are not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the above.

Number of unorganised workers

†531. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unorganised workers in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the standard of living of these unorganised workers is very low; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the standard of living of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total number of unorganised workers was 43.3 crore.

(b) and (c) The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganised sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-coal Mine workers. Under these Welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing, and education to the children etc. have been formulated. However, it is true that most of the workers in the unorganised sector are not provided social security. Recognising the need for such social security, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- to BPL families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana".

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi